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DSSR

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INFORMATION FROM PER:

1. MANNERHEIM AND DIETL CLASH OVER OPERATIONS IN FINLAND
2. MOVEMENTS OF GERMAN UNITS AND TANKS (1942)

From: STOCKHOLM

To: MOSCOW

No: 706

15 April 1942

To [Name No. 42][1].

From PER[1]. The meeting between MANNERHEIM[iii] and DIETL[iv] took place in the operational headquarters in ROVANIEMI[v] in the POKJAN HOVI Hotel, where they discussed questions concerning the co-ordination of operations during the spring and summer. During the discussions major disagreements came to light. DIETL proposed conducting the operations according to last year's plan - large strike groups in different directions. It is not known which. MANNERHEIM sharply objected and accused DIETL of being unfit to conduct operations in winter conditions. When DIETL objected to the plan proposed by MANNERHEIM, the latter shouted irritably: "Do as I order or get out of FINLAND". He accused the Germans of not fulfilling promises made to him by HITLER before the start of the war and thus [EG of ruining] his plan of campaign. The meeting did not settle the task put before it. On the way to HELSINKI, MANNERHEIM openly expressed his displeasure with the Germans.

[Continued overleaf]

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3/Mar/1942

1. According to our information, Finnish officers have arrived on the northern front for permanent attachment to German units.

2. There are very few servicemen in BEKLEN at the present time but in January and February a large unit was there.

3. During the second half of March whole trains of passenger coaches, loaded with tanks, passed through BUDAPEST. The seats in the coaches had been removed. They loaded the tanks through a dismantled side.

No. 53

(Name No. 64)[v1]

Footnotes: [ii] Name No. 42: Possibly Captain 1st Rank Mikhail Aleksandrovich VORONTSOV.

v² [iii] PER:

✓[iii] MANNERHEIM: Field Marshal Baron Carl Gustaf Emil MANNERHEIM, at this date Commander-in-Chief, FINLAND.

[iv] DIETL: Colonel General Edward DIETL, who commanded 20th Army, which was formed in the winter of 1941-42 in northern FINLAND.

[v] ROVANENI: 66.31N : 25.9E, FINLAND.

[vi] Name No. 64: Probably Aleksandr A. PAVLOV, TASS correspondent in STOCKHOLM.

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